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## BOOK REVIEWS.

**THE TRUE THOMAS JEFFERSON.** By William Eleroy Curtiss, Author of "The Capitals of Spanish America," "The United States and Foreign Powers," etc. J. B. Lipincott Company. Philadelphia: 1901. 395 pp. \$2.00, net.

We have rarely examined a biography which so intensely interested us. The author is a "free lance." To what he conceives to be Jefferson's virtues he applies the most unstinted praise, while the faults of the great statesman are pointed out with merciless frankness. The book is dedicated to Henry Watter-son, "a true Democrat who believes with Jefferson that a man must sometimes be inconsistent if he is sincere," which but summarizes the author's excuse for the many inconsistencies which he says characterized Jefferson's political career. The lawyer will find the chapter on "Jefferson as a Lawyer," the most interesting portion of the book. The author thinks that Jefferson's greatest service to his state was the revision of its statutes. When we think of his distinguished service to his country and of his devotion to literary pursuits we are apt to overlook the fact that he was a successful and active practitioner of law. During his first year at the bar he was employed in sixty-eight cases before the general court and his fees amounted to about fifteen hundred dollars. Quite a good income for a young lawyer when we remember that in those days attorneys' fees were fixed by law at ten dollars for appearance in a local court, two dollars for an oral opinion, and five dollars for a written opinion. And when lawyers attended court more than a day's travel from their homes they were allowed only three dollars and fifty-eight cents a day. The author's chapter on "The University of Virginia" contains much from which Virginians will dissent. He says "that at a glance at the list of endowments and gifts of money that have been made both before and since the war ought to be mortifying to every citizen of Virginia and other Southern States. But for the munificence of Northern friends Jefferson's great monument and his greatest gift to the American people would long ago have perished." But he forgets that the "Northern friends" of which he speaks were in many cases really Southern men who made their money in the North, and he makes no mention of the South's impoverishment on account of the war, which really accounts for the inability of the Southern people to make large gifts. The author further says that the people of Virginia have done little for the University, and charges that they have treated Jefferson as they have treated the rest of the famous sons of the State, permitting their monuments to be erected in other parts of the country. As a matter of fact the people of Virginia, through their state government, have given to the University annually an amount equal to the interest on the entire endowment given by private benefactors both North and South.

**A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.** By Edward Channing. Vol. 1. The Planting of a Nation in the New World. 1000-1660. The Macmillan Company. New York: 1905.

Many histories of our country have been written in recent years. The story of the Republic seems to be one of never fading interest, and each of the great works recently issued are positive contributions to the subject. Mr. Channing's

first volume is but one in an extensive series, which it is hoped will soon be completed. The first volume carries the reader only to the year 1660, but gives him a foretaste of what is coming and a desire to read the volumes yet to appear. Mr. Channing says that in treating his subject the word "history" is understood in its larger sense as denoting not merely the annals of the past, but as descriptive of the development of the American people from the inception of the colonizing enterprises which resulted in the foundation of the thirteen original states and the formation of the Federal Union. He says that his guiding idea is "to view the subject as a record of evolution and to trace the growth of the nation from the standpoint of that which preceded rather than that which followed." He tries to see "in the annals of the past the story of the living forces." The standpoint, therefore, of the work is different from that of others which have appeared, and will therefore supply a need. His work is evidently one of a student and not that of any one who merely collects and records undigested facts. To the Virginian the chapters on the Colony of Virginia and the one on the Old Dominion will prove of intense interest.

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THE AMERICAN STATE REPORTS. Containing the Cases of General Value and Authority Subsequent to those contained in the "American Decisions" and the "American Reports," decided in the Courts of Last Resort of the several States. Selected, Reported and Annotated by A. C. Freeman. Volume 102. Bancroft-Whitney Company, Law Publishers and Law Booksellers. San Francisco: 1905

This volume will prove of special interest to Virginia lawyers on account of the notes appended to a number of Virginia cases selected from 102 Va. *Zurle v. Southern Railway*, 102 Va. 17, has appended to it a very extensive note of twenty odd pages on "The uses for which the power of eminent domain cannot be exercised." The other Virginia cases reported and annotated are: *Big Stone Gap Iron Co. v. Ketron*, 102 Va. 23, 102 Am. St. Rep. 839; *Headrick v. McDowell* 102 Va. 124, 102 Am. St. Rep. 843; *Va. Fire and Marine Insurance Co. v. Richmond Mica Co.*, 102 Va. 429, 102 Am. St. Rep. 846; *Old Dominion Steamship Co. v. Commonwealth*, 102 Va. 576, 102 Am. St. Rep. 855; *Colin v. Wellford*, 102 Va. 581, 102 Am. St. Rep. 859; and *Taylor v. Commonwealth*, 102 Va. 759, 102 Am. St. Rep. 865.

Mr. Freeman's admirable monographic notes are a never ending source of comfort to the lawyer in search of an intelligent discussion of the points involved in his case. Mr. Freeman seems to have a keen eye for detecting new applications of the principles of law and of distinguishing authorities which are apparently but not really at variance. Among the important notes contained in the volume are those on Exemption of Wages, Salaries and Earnings; What Amounts to a Contract for the sale of land within the meaning of the Statute of Frauds; Conditions Precedent in Deeds and Wills; Abandonment of Homestead; Powers and Liabilities of School Teachers in Relation to Pupils; Warranties of Quality in Sales; Power of Courts to create and enforce Liens to secure the payment of Alimony; and Acknowledgment or New Promise to suspend the Running or Remove the Bar of the Statute of Limitations.